(i) On 23.11.1992, RBI Bombay reported 13 notes of Rs. 100 denomination short.

(ii) On 29.11.1992, RBI Nagpur reported 33 notes of Rs. 100 denomination short.

(iii) On 16.12.1992, RBI Calcutta reported 26 notes of Rs. 100 denomination short.

(c) A preliminary inquiry has been conducted in the matter. According to the inquiry report, the shortages occurred because certain personnel in the Currency Note Press, Nasik had not observed the prescribed control procedures; and

(d) A detailed complaint has been lodged with the Police, an FIR has been registered, and the Police is already investigating the case. One industrial workman of Currency Note Press, Nasik has been suspended, and disciplinary action has been initiated against other employees involved. Further action would be taken on the basis of the progress of police investigation.

Impact of Riots foreign investment

104. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the over all impact on foreign investment, particularly, in Bombay due to riots following the demolition of Babri Masjid; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to maintain the flow of foreign investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The foreign investment climate is determined by large number of factors relating to the State of the domestic economy perceptions of the policy framework and direction of policy, the state of the world economy and the political atmosphere in the country. The Government's determination to deal firmly with the communal and disruptive elements has played a positive role in containing any likely adverse impact on foreign investments.

Additional earnings due to withdrawal of Concessions

105. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total revenue earned during the current year by way of withdrawal of concessions granted under Sections 80CCA and 80CCB of the Income Tax Act; and

(b) what is the number of tax payers affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The withdrawal of concessions by the Finance Act, 1992 under sections 80CCA and 80CCB of the Income-tax Act was part of a package which included raising of exemption limit, reduction in tax rates and insertion of savings schemes earlier covered u/s 80CCA and 80CCB into section 88 for the purpose of tax rebate. The investment limit u/s 88 was also enhanced from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 60,000.

The saving behaviour of a tax payer depends upon a number of factors like exemption limit, tax rate, various alternatives of investment available to him, rate of inflation, disposable income available etc. Considering the multiplicity of factors affecting saving behaviour, it is not possible to determine the total revenue earned in any particular year by withdrawal of concessions under section 80CCA and 80CCB. Accordingly, it is not possible to maintain data in this regard.

(b) In view of above, it is not possible to estimate the number of tax payers affected thereby.

Stepping up of British investment in India

106. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of British Prime Minister to India, he had offered to step up British investments in India, in response to the economic reforms programme;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer and what was Governments response thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that an agreement for a billion U.K. aid was signed during the said visit; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The British Prime Minister, during his recent visit to India, appreciated our economic reforms and felt that they would contribute to increased trade and investment flows. However, specific figures were mentioned in this connection.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Doesn't arise.

Revenue losses due to riots

107. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country suffered huge revenue loss on account of riots on Ayodhya issue;

(b) if so, what will be the estimated amount of loss incurred by Government of India; and

(c) what is the amount of loss suffered in customs duty, income tax and by banks and insurance companies, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The functioning of industry including banking and insurance was adversely affected in certain areas due to disturbances caused on account of Ayodhya issue. It is, however, not possible to precisely isolate variations in revenue collections due to different factors.

Rise in External debt

108. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gross external debt has recorded a rise by Rs. 1,70,257 crores as on December 31, 1991;

(b) whether India's external debt has recorded a rise by Rs. 50,000 crores during a period of nine months;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the increase in debt; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to repay to debt-burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The external debt outstanding as on 31st March, 1991 and 31st December, 1991 was US $ 63134 million and US $ 66060 million respectively (an increase of US $ 2926 million during April-December, 1991). However in rupee terms it was Rs. 121998 crores and Rs. 170257 crores respectively (An increase of Rs. 48259 crores during April-December, 1991).